

hopes of power and greatness. This blindness was persisted in for some time at Hamburg. Several hawkers, who were marked out by the police as having been the circulators of Paris news, were shot. An agent of the Government publicly announced his design of assassinating one of the French Princes, in whose service he was said to have been as a page. He said he would go to his Koyal Highness and solicit to be appointed one of his *aides de camp*, and that, if the application were refused, as it probably would be, the refusal would only confirm him in his purpose.

At length, when the state of things was beyond the possibility of doubt,¹ Davoust assembled the troops, acquainted them with the dethronement of the Emperor, hoisted a flag of truce, and sent his adhesion to the Provisional Government. All then thought of their personal safety, without losing sight of their honestly acquired wealth. Diamonds and other objects of value and small bulk were hastily collected and packed up. The Governor of Hamburg, Count Hogendorff, who, in spite of some signal instances of opposition, had too often co-operated in severe and vexatious measures, was the first to quit the city. He was, indeed, hurried off by Davoust, because he had mounted the Orange cockade and wished to take his Dutch troops away with him. After consigning the command to General Gerard, Davoust quitted Hamburg, and arrived at Paris on the 18th of June.

I have left Napoleon at Fontainebleau. The period of his departure for Elba was near at hand: it was fixed for the 17th of April.

¹ Davoust's long ignorance of the Restoration was not affected. When first he learnt the disasters of the Empire from Puymaigre, who had been sent out from Hamburg on a mission, and that the Allies had crossed the Rhine, he told Puymaigre that, not wishing to be shaken by anything unconnected with the defence of the fortress, he knew nothing of what had happened outside. When he was, later, informed by Puymaigre that the Due d'Angouleme was at Bordeaux, he angrily reproached his messenger with having been duped by lies and with bringing him false news (*Puymaigre*, p. 165, 166). The good faith of Davoust at Hamburg, Bapp at Dantzic, and t. Cyr at Dresden contrasts with the hurry of many of the officers near Napoleon to get good terms for themselves by joining the Allies. In both the cases of Dantzic and Dresden the Allies, having got possession of them by a capitulation, broke the terms when the garrisons were fairly in their power, making derisory offers of replacing the garrisons in their former positions.